

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03892 100802Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 MCT-01 EUR-12 /093 W
-----065629 100810Z /15

O R 100707Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USDEL SECRETARY JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4842
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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JERUSALEM FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), LE, PLO, PDIP

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN REACTION TO SECRETARY'S TOUR OF MIDDLE
EAST

1. SUMMARY. PALESTINIAN COMMENT ON CORE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA IN CONTEXT OF SECRETARY'S TOUR OF
MIDDLE EAST, AS REPORTED BY BEIRUT PRESS, REFLECTS BELIEF THAT
USG IS NOT BEING VERY CONCILIATORY TOWARDS THE PLO AND IS
TRYING TO DIVIDE ARAB RANKS. END SUMMARY.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEWS BULLETIN "THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORTER" (MER), EDITED BY RESPECTED PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST
IHSAN HIJAZI, IN "NEWS ANALYSIS" AUGUST 8, SUBTITLED "IS
GENEVA CONFERENCE DEAD?" NOTED THAT SEVERAL BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS
HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY "HAS FAILED IN PERSUADING
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ARAB LEADERS TO AGREE TO GO TO GENEVA WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS."
MER ANALYSIS SAID THAT SADAT HAS MADE TWO PROPOSALS TO
ARAFAT TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK: 1) PLO TO SET UP
GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WITH A MODERATE APPEARANCE, WITH
WHICH USG PERHAPS COULD DEAL; 2) PLO AND USG WOULD
EXCHANGE LETTERS EXPRESSING "THEIR MUTUAL INTEREST IN
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT AND JUST PEACE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE REST OF THE ARAB STATES." USG IN TURN WOULD EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RESTATING ITS USUAL ASSURANCES. ACCORDING TO MER, USG HAS REJECTED SADAT'S PROPOSAL, BUT HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SEEK REVISION OF RESOLUTION 242, CHANGING ALUSION TO REFUGEES TO PALESTINIANS IN SOME FASHION, PROVIDED PLO ENDORSES THE RESOLUTION.

3. MER SAYS THAT, "DESPITE THE APPEARANCE OF DISUNITY ON THE SURFACE, THE FOUR ARAB STATES DIRECTLY CONCERNED IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS -- EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA -- ARE IN AGREEMENT TO TRY TO GET THE US TO REVISE ITS POSITION TOWARDS THE PALESTINIANS AND THEIR REPRESENTATION IN THE TALKS." MER REPORTS "CONSENSUS" THAT, UNLESS ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IS RESOLVED, GENEVA CONFERENCE IS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE END OF 1977.

4. CONSERVATIVE BEIRUT AL ANWAR AUGUST 8 QUOTES PLO SECOND-IN-COMMAND ABU IYAD ON AUGUST 7 THAT PLO HAS REACHED FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

A. SECRETARY IS NOT WILLING TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN STATE;

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B. SECRETARY IS NOT WILLING TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, "NOT EVEN WITHIN A JORDANIAN DELEGATION";

C. THEREFORE, IN WORDS OF ABU IYAD, "WE BELIEVE THAT VANCE'S VISIT WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS AND THAT THE SOUTH (OF LEBANON) COULD BE THEIR MAIN SCENE."

5. Wafa ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BULLETIN AUGUST 9 QUOTES ABU IYAD: "WE HAVE NO SECRETS TO HIDE; WE HAVE AN AGREED PROVISIONAL PROGRAM WHICH IN BROAD OUTLINES SPECIFIES THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AND TO THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON PALESTINIAN SOIL WITHOUT RECOGNITION OF OR A TREATY WITH ISRAEL.

6. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE IKE AUGUST 7 CARRIED KHALIL CARTOON SHOWING UNCLE SAM WALKING AWAY FROM A FIGURE REPRESENTING THE PLO WHICH SUDDENLY FINDS ITSELF STRIPPED NAKED, TOWARDS A FIGURE REPRESENTING ISRAEL, WELL-DRESSED BUT APPREHENSIVE.

7. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT PUBLIC
PALESTINIAN COMMENTS REFLECT PRIVATE PALESTINIAN VIEWS,
NOR WHAT MAY BE CURRENT STATE OF INTERNAL PLO DEBATE.
WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS ABU IYAD, NOT YASSIR
ARAFAT, WHO IS -- FOR WHATEVER REASONS -- TAKING THE
TOUGH PUBLIC ROLE, BUT WITHOUT EXPLICITLY REJECTING 242.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT03892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
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